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33 Auburn Ave. Apt. 6
Columbus, OH 43205 209 '99 MAY -7 P1:36

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my concern with efforts to change current labeling laws which alert consumers to the types of foods they buy and consume. I feel strongly that the FDA should retain the current labeling law, the current terminology of "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation," and the use of the radura symbol on all irradiated whole foods.


Whether or not the FDA has approved irradiation as safe, it remains a new technology with no long-term human feeding studies. Consumers certainly have a right to know if this process has been used on their food.

Labels should be on the front of the package and readily visible to the consumer. These labels contains important information regarding the processing of the contents. Displayed whole foods, such as produce, should have a prominent informational display similar to that used for meats. This display should explain "irradiation" and include the radura symbol.

The newness of the technology, in addition to the need to assess the public health effects of widespread use of irradiated foods, warrant the continued utilization of the current label. FDA's labeling requirement should not be permitted to expire.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

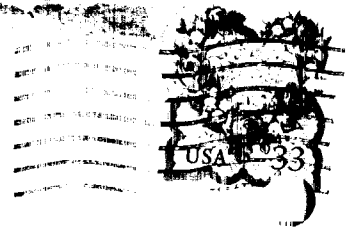
Sincerely,


Susan Studer

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